



# ELDA

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*Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association*  
*a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)*



**Mark Koterwski**  
**ELDA President**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Mark Koterwski**

Greetings from the ELDA President!

Wow - we just got done with the ELDA Conference 2018 in Las Vegas last summer, hosted by St. Matthew Lutheran Church in California. The weather was beautiful except for being hot which did not bother us.

We had the Pastoral Retreat, the ELDA Board & United Methodist Congress of the Deaf Board meetings on their own, several devotionals, worship services twice, workshops, an assembly meeting, and of course social activities. The committee did a great job with planning to make the event as successful as possible. They sure worked very hard. I want to say many thanks to the committee who volunteered their time! They deserved pats on their backs! See Linda Fairbanks' report related to ELDA Conference 2018 for more details.

We have a new ELDA Board for 2018 - 2020:

President - Mark Koterwski, South Dakota

Vice President - Jeannie Fischer, Pennsylvania

Secretary - Lori Fuller, Florida

Treasurer - Jeff Panek, South Dakota

Pastoral Advisor - Don Rosenkjar, California

ELCA Deaf Ministry Director - Pr. Beth Lockard, Pennsylvania

You can reach one of us on the Board for more information. Our contact information can be found on the ELDA website: [ELDADEAF.org](http://ELDADEAF.org).

We had a great meeting with UMCD (United Methodist Congress of the Deaf) during the ELDA Conference as part of the ELM team. I am proud to recognize that we, ELM Seeds (ELDA & UMCD) worked to make the ELM relationship continue to grow and our partnership become more strong and stronger each year. The Bible stated (Philippians 1:5 - 7) "Because of your partnership in the

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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MUCH MORE.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

Gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you, will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus”.

ELDA is looking forward to continue working with UMCD. I want to say thanks to UMCD for their willingness to host the ELM Conference 2020 in Florida. We look forward to that! ELM Seeds will have their meeting sometime in October 2018.

On Behalf of the ELDA Board Directors, we want congratulate Don Rosenkjar as he just retired from deaf ministry at his church. He had been involved in deaf ministry for more than 20 years. St. Matthew Lutheran Church hosted a celebration for his retirement. Congratulations Don! Of course he is not finished with deaf ministry. He still has a passion to continue working as the Pastoral Advisor for ELDA!

Please feel free to contact me at [mkoterwski@gmail.com](mailto:mkoterwski@gmail.com) to share your ideas that will benefit ELDA. We would love to hear your ideas!

God Bless you all!  
Mark Koterwski  
ELDA President

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## ELDA BOARD



My name is Lori Fuller. I used to serve on the ELDA board many years ago and been honored to serve again this time as a secretary. I am married with three beautiful girls ages 5, 6 and 20. I have a bachelor's degree in human services and a master's degree in pastoral ministry with the Deaf and rehabilitation counseling. I worked for ten years as a

Vocational Counselor before resigning to focus on taking care of the young ones. My oldest just went off to Gallaudet University to obtain a degree in social work. Look forward to working with YOU to share God's love with all.

Don Rosenkjar:

After some twenty years, Donald Rosenkjar is retiring from the position of Deaf Minister at St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church in North Hollywood, California. He has been in charge of deaf ministry at the church. He plans to remain active at his church, but as a member of the church as well as its homeless drop-in program. The church is now actively looking for Don's replacement. Don says, "I am deeply honored to be elected as your Pastoral Advisor, and I pledge I will do my best to serve Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association."



# ELDA BOARD

**Jeannie Fischer:**

I am happily married for 30 years and have 3 precious grown boys! I started to join the ELDA in 2010 at Malvern , PA and I love people like sisters and brothers and they are so excellent to support, and encourage with God's love! I was elected to be the Vice President for ELDA in 2014 till now! I have learned a lot from those humble and so kind people there and I enjoy traveling at the same time and meet new people from there! God is really awesome!



**Mark Koterwski:** Mark had served as Vice President of the ELDA Board for 2 years and he also served

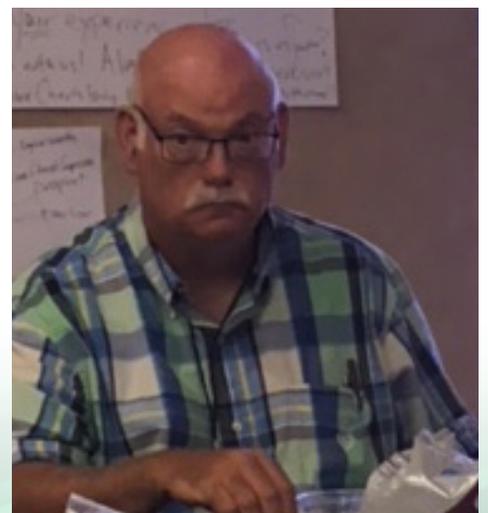
8 years as ELDA

President from 2006 to 2014. Now he is happy to be back to serve as ELDA President again, having been elected this past July. Mark's wife, Angela served as ELDA Secretary 2014-2018. They have one daughter, Kayla who recently got married in August. Mark works for CSD in Sioux Falls, SD.



**Jeff Panek:**

Jeff has been serving as Treasurer for the past 6 years. He is married to Belinda and they have two sons, and both sons are married. They are expecting a new grandchild this fall. The Paneks live in Tea, SD.



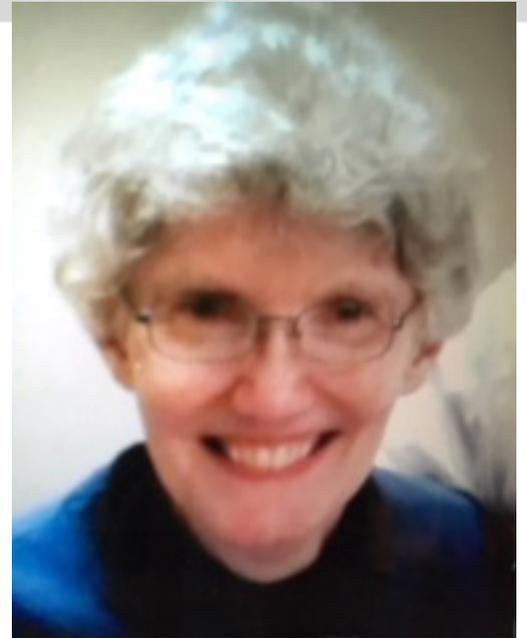
**Pastor Beth Lockard:**

Pastor Beth Lockard is the Director of Deaf Ministries and also serves on the ELDA Board. Her report appears in every issue of the ELDA Newsletter. Pastor Beth and her husband went to Nigeria this past spring. Pastor Beth is the pastor of Christ the King Deaf Church in West Chester and Philadelphia, PA which runs DeafCan! social services. She also is a mother to three grown sons and one step-son.



# LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

by Dorothy Sparks, Deacon



An anthropologist was winding up several months of research in a small village, the story is told. While waiting for a ride to the airport for his return flight home, he decided to pass the time by making up a game for some children. His idea was to create a race for a basket of fruit and candy that he placed near a tree. But when he gave the signal to run, no one made a dash for the finish line. Instead the children joined hands and ran together to the tree.

When asked why they chose to run as a group rather than each racing for the prize, a little girl spoke up and said: "How could one of us be happy when all of the others are sad?" Because these children cared about each other, they wanted all to share the basket of fruit and candy.

*Because He cares for us, we care for each other.*

After years of studying the law of Moses, the apostle Paul found that all of God's laws could be summed up in one: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Gal. 5:14; see also Rom. 13:9). In Christ, Paul saw not only the reason to encourage, comfort, and care for one another but also the spiritual enablement to do it.

*Because He cares for us, we care for each other. We show our love for God when we love one another.*

# HOW TO GET INTO HEAVEN



A man dies and arrives at the pearly gates of heaven. Of course, St Peter greets him. St Peter says, “Here’s how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things that you’ve done, and I give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in.”

“Okay, the man says, “I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, even in my heart.”

“That’s wonderful,” says St Peter, “that’s worth three points!”

“Three points?” he says, slightly concerned. “Well I attended church all my life and supported its ministry with my tithe and service.”

“Terrific!” says St Peter, “that’s worth a point.”

“One point?,” he man moans, now getting really worried. “Well, I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans.”

“Fantastic, that’s good for two more points,” he says.

“Two points” the man cries. “At this rate the only way I get into Heaven is by the grace of God!” St Peter nods and says, “Bingo! 100 points! Come on in, my son!”

# ELCA DEAF MINISTRIES COORDINATOR'S REPORT



Dear ELDA Friends:

God's grace and peace be with you!

It was good to see some of you at the recent Las Vegas conference which was so joyfully hosted by St.

Matthew's Lutheran Deaf ministry of North Hollywood. Hand waves to chairperson Don Rosenkjar, his committee, and their pastor, Rev. Stephanie Jaeger, for all their creative efforts. I'm sure they are relieved they completed the gigantic task!

Since that time, I have learned Don quietly retired this month from his Deaf ministry position after twenty (20) years. We thank and salute Don for his efforts over so many years. I count him as one of my beloved friends. St. Matthew's will soon begin their search for a new leader after determining the needs of their Sharing Hands Ministry. When Don was shaping this ministry, I flew out to California with my third baby to support his efforts. That baby is now a 19.5 year old college sophomore!

I also want to thank our outgoing ELDA Board members and new incoming Board members. You will see their pictures in other parts of the newsletter. Each Board is unique and we learn to work together to make things happen for ELDA. We have appreciated working with our Deaf Methodist and Episcopalian friends and hope to continue to collaborate on different projects together. ELM (Episcopalian-Lutheran-Methodist) meetings will also happen regularly. The UMCD and ELDA agreed to have links on their websites to each other and list their churches. The UMCD will host the next conference in 2020.

If you did not receive the new ELDA Directory and want a paper copy, please contact your pastor or me to get a copy ([lockardbeth@gmail.com](mailto:lockardbeth@gmail.com)). I thank Luanne and Gordon Bartens (WOLD, Lancaster) for assisting me with this project.

The Methodists have a certified lay servant course and have inspired us to develop our own curriculum. The ELDA pastoral workers at the conference brainstormed segments for the Lutheran lay ministry curriculum which will focus on the Hebrew Scriptures, New Testament, Christology, Lutheran theology, and worship leadership. Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran (Minneapolis) with Pr. Michelle Lewis and Deacon Dorothy Sparks won a \$15,000 grant from Minneapolis Area Synod to team with Bethel Lutheran (hearing) to work on this curriculum in a pilot project between the two churches. Hopefully, this interaction and efforts will give ELDA a working curriculum in the near future that we can use in all our churches.

I also want to thank Mill Neck Foundation/Lutheran Friends of the Deaf for their grant that enabled us to help pay for interpreters. Part of the funding came from Mill Neck, part from ELDA, and the UMCD provided interpreters and a CART typist all week. We thank interpreters Carol Stevens, Michelle Menefree, Mary Harris, Sarah Andera, Bre Gehringer, Cindy Camp, and Juliana Pappos for their assistance during the conference week.

ELDA voted to become formal partners with the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria Deaf Ministry. We are excited about the possibilities and the Board will be sharing more in future newsletters.

And finally, we wish Pr. Susan Masters well as she recently relocated to Ohio to be near her father (soon to be 104) and take an interim ministry call there.

Peace and Prayers,  
Pr. Beth Lockard  
Director, ELCA Deaf Ministries

# BREAD OF LIFE DEAF MINNEAPOLIS, MN

This fall at BOLD, we are studying Old Testament stories. Each week we will include a visual reminder of the stories in our worship services. In Bible Study we are studying the same stories as we study in worship.

**Friday, September 14, BOLD Game Night, 6:30 pm -- 9:00 pm.** Invite a friend, bring a snack to share and a game to play!!

Sunday, September 23, few members of BOLD will attend Woodlake Lutheran Church (hearing church) in Richfield, MN.

The purpose is to lead hearing people to be aware of Deaf Culture and experiences

Saturday, October 6, Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church will share a special day with Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church for packing the food at a site of Feed My Starving Children. It will be our second time together serving at Feed My Starving Children.

Sunday, October 7, Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church will have a Visiting Training workshop after the worship service.

Friday, October 12, BOLD Movie Night, 6:30 pm -- 9:00 pm. Invite a friend, bring a snack to share and a game to play!! Watching the movie, "All Saints."

Sunday, October 14, Deacon Dorothy will lead Bible Study at Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. This is one of the ways that BOLD is forming partnership with Bethel.

Saturday, October 27, ZUMBA at BOLD!! 9:00 am -- 11:30 am

Sunday, October 28, BOLD is hosting a "Thank You Celebration" to thank supporters of BOLD and to celebrate how God is leading life at BOLD! Breakfast and Program at 8:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.; Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Friday, November 9, BOLD Game Night, 6:30 pm -- 9:00 pm. Invite a friend, bring a snack to share and a game to play!!

Saturday, November 10, ZUMBA at BOLD!! 9:00 am -- 11:30 am

Sunday, November 11, 9:00 am -- 10:00 am  
BOLD will pack Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief.

We are collecting a towel, toothbrush, comb, soap, and nail clippers (NO toothpaste). Everything must be new. Please drop them off in boxes at BOLD.

Sunday, November 18, Confirmation students from Bethlehem Lutheran Church Twin Cities, to visit BOLD. Tentative.

Wednesday, November 21, 7:00 p.m.-- BOLD will join 6 other congregations for a Thanksgiving Eve worship service at Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 E 50th St, Minneapolis, MN 55417. Pie fest to follow, so bring a pie to share!!

Saturday, December 8, ZUMBA at BOLD!! 9:00 am -- 11:30 am

Friday, December 14, BOLD Movie Night, 6:30 pm -- 9:00 pm. Invite a friend, bring a snack to share and a game to play!!

Sunday, December 16, BOLD Christmas Pageant in worship. Invite your friends to come, see the Christmas Angels at BOLD!!

Friday, December 21, Blue Christmas Worship Service is a service for those of us who do not feeling particularly merry and bright at Christmas time. We hope it will be a safe place to be open with ourselves and with God, a safe place to admit that we are not ok at the moment, that we feel sad, discouraged, or angry. The service is a place for us to be real with our struggles and our questions.

Sunday, December 23, BOLD will celebrate a 3-in-1 Christmas Sunday

9:00 a.m. Scavenger Hunt (Advent IV)--searching for clues that lead us to Jesus

10:30 a.m. Christmas Eve Worship

12:00 p.m. Christmas Lunch Potluck in Social Hall

# ELDA AWARDS



Dorothy Sparks from BOLD accepted the ELDA Shining Light Award for Jay Johnson.

The presenter is Jeannie Johnson. Congratulations Jay!



Congratulations to Word of Life Lutheran Church, WOLD!

Members of their church received the award at the award program during the ELDA conference in Las Vegas. Pictured are Gordon Bartens, Luanne Bartens, Jeannie Fischer and Joanne Reilly. Photo credits to Luanne Bartens. More information on the awards will be in the next newsletter, coming out in December

## ELM MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

***Mission Statement:*** "In the Presence of Jesus Christ, with mutual love and respect, the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf (ECD), the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA) and the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf (UMCD) partner together to inspire and transform the lives of Deaf people."

***Vision Statement:*** "Together as one, with God's help we strive to build a spectrum of ministries with Deaf people, passionately engaged in creating and supporting diverse ministries, outreach, communication, worship resources, and leadership development that show the love and grace of Jesus Christ to everyone we meet."

## THE ELDA MISSION STATEMENT

***The Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA) is a national Lutheran organization of Deaf ELCA congregations, interpreted ministries, and their members which supports a core value of ASL and American Deaf Culture. ELDA advocates Deaf spirituality and empowerment, Deaf global missions and youth outreach, interpreter training, and a biennial conference.***

# DEAF LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN NIGERIA



Picture of attendees from the Nigerian Deaf Leader training which was held on August 20-22, 2018 in the Church for the Deaf in Nigeria.



Pastor Ruth with Bishop Ann Svennungsen from the Minneapolis Area Synod at a workshop.

The conference Theme “Getting It All Together” and was for female pastors and theologians. The conference took place on September 6-10, 2018 in Nigeria.



This picture shows the large group of women pastors and theologians who gathered for the conference.

# THE ELDA CONFERENCE REPORT

By Linda Fairbanks

First of all, I would like to say “Thank you” for the four wonderful years that I served as your ELDA President. So much had happened throughout the years that I served and all through it all, the Board thrived to work together as a team. I have never been so proud of the Board that I served on; so please, give yourselves a pat on your backs. I learned so much from each of the board members. I learned about the power of prayer and courage when two of our Board members were ill and eventually recovered. Those same two women still went ahead on their mission trip to Jamaica. Wow, that was amazing and when I think about it, I thank God for them being in my life. The ELDA mission trip to Nigeria was another amazing journey, made possible with the guidance and leadership from Jay Johnson, to meet Pastor Ruth and visit her church and school. They also attended the Easter Camp where the mission team met 108 deaf Nigerians. Our prayers and faith brought them there and back home! Again, thank you all, for those amazing experiences that I endured during my term. Let’s get back to the conference report that I am working on. For those of you who attended the conference, thank you and I hope the conference was all that you expected and more! The conference started off on July 22nd with members of both the Lutheran and the United Methodist pastors and pastoral workers arriving for their special time. They spent time going over different approaches to Deaf Ministry and shared resources. Some members were in a Certified Lay Servant class. Representatives on the ELM Committee also held their meetings.

On Wednesday, The ELDA and UMC Board of Directors held their business meetings. Some of them made preparations for the workshops, worship services, devotions and the general meetings that laid ahead for them. Our delegates arrived on Thursday, the 26th and were warmly welcomed by all of us. As soon as the delegates arrived and were settled in, we all attended church services, a Lay Servant class, by Dorothy Sparks and in the evening we had an ice-breaker with games, led by Mark Koterwski. Everyone enjoyed that we were able to get to know each other better. We had all of our meals together and we were able to interact some more.

Friday brought the town hall meeting, which was led by Mark Koterwski. We also had a workshop on Global Missions in which Carol Stevens and Kirk VanGilder explained about their trips to both Kenya and Zimbabwe. Pastor Beth and Dorothy Sparks spoke about their trip to Nigeria. Both mission teams showed very nice PowerPoints on their trips. We had skits and storytelling in the evening. Billy Deters won with his skit about the homeless deaf man he met in Florida.

Saturday was another busy day with the ELDA general assembly and election. A list of new Board members and their pictures are shown elsewhere in this newsletter. Then a workshop was held on the homeless project that St Matthews is involved with. In the evening, we gathered for the picture taking of the two groups with a photo of all of the Lutherans and Methodists together. Outgoing Presidents Linda Fairbanks and Kirk VanGilder were the Mistress and Master of Ceremonies. The banquet turned out really nice with a great meal, served buffet style. After the meal, we held the awards program. The Methodist presented their awards and then the Lutherans did the same. We ended the evening with worship and the Lord’s Supper.

The last day was Sunday, the 29th and everyone went on their way home. Some stayed for the Hoover Dam/Lake Mead event that took place that day. All in all, everything went well and thanks to Don Rosenkjar and Pastor Stephanie Jaeger and the St Matthews Lutheran Deaf Ministry committee for being gracious hosts. Thank you and hope to see more of you at the next conference in two years!



# SPIRITUAL ARTICLE

by Don Rosenkjar

Scripture from Mark 7:31-37:

Jesus left the region around Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward Lake Galilee. He went through the land near the ten cities known as Decapolis. Some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk. They begged Jesus just to touch him.

After Jesus had taken him aside from the crowd, he stuck his fingers in the man's ears. Then he spit and put it on the man's tongue. Jesus looked up toward heaven, and with a groan he said, "Ephphatha!" which means "Open up!" At once the man could hear, and he had no more trouble talking clearly.

Jesus told the people not to say anything about what he had done. But the more he told them, the more they talked about it. They were completely amazed and said, "Everything he does is good! He even heals people who cannot hear or talk."

Jesus says to us today, "EPHPHATHA! OPEN!"

Open our hearts to receive

His love,

His forgiveness,

His peace,

His power,

Open our hands to give Him our praise.

Open our joy to tell the story.

Jesus wants us to tell our friends and families our story how God showed mercy to us -- and they can desire to meet Him, also.

The founder of Gallaudet University's father was an Episcopalian priest. Look at Gallaudet University logo, and you will see the fingerspelling of the word Ephphatha. It means the university is a place for the Deaf to learn, to open up to new knowledge.

Gallaudet University's logo,  
Ephphatha "Be opened".



# FROM PASTOR RUTH ULEA IN NIGERIA

Dear friends.

Greetings from LCCN Deaf Center and Deaf Church Nigeria,

The year is coming to an end. We and the church have reach the time, when our letters are written and sent. And it means a welcome opportunity to send personal greetings plus news to all of you LMF whom I think of and pray for all through the year. Often when I receive a letter; I give thanks for all the good letters that you (LMF) so faithfully are sending us. I feel "between the lines" a sight something un-spoken, which is difficult, and I think I must hurry and write short greetings. But quickly new urgent demands come up and the letter is only written in my thoughts unfortunately, but better late than never.

We are all sorry to think of all the trouble and dissension which prevails everywhere and also in churches and in the missionaries outreach work. It tells of one`s strength and it takes the pleasure out of one`s work and it paralyses one`s testimony (John 17:21) "All our dissension obstruct people believe in God."

Two months ago, July 24th -28th we left for Ibadan to attend the evangelism and training for deaf leaders. There were seven of us (7). The theme was "Strengthen the church" Acts 16:5 (workshops, discussion groups and games were included to train and mentor Deaf leaders on how to lead, train and encourage deaf youth, to train deaf leaders and future leaders to effectively share their faith, and to prepare and equip leaders to establish ministries that will fulfill the great commission of Jesus.



Then July 31st -4th of August the South West Association of the Deaf invited me to open prayer there as the first deaf female from south west educated under the late Dr. Andrew Foster. We shared beautiful memories, then on August 6th-12, 2018 the Deaf Christian Leadership Conference started with the theme: "God's idea of leadership" Mathew 20:27.

We left Ibadan on August 13th and arrived in Yola for the Door to Door Bible Translation.

We arrived on August 18th, 2018 for the Nigeria sign language Bible translation team. Rev. Ben M. Tnuku from Kenya came on 20th -22th of August 2018 to start the Nigeria Deaf Leadership Training in the church of the deaf in Jimeta Yola. It was very inspired to give us reasons and to help give them hope and empower deaf people to lead them to share the vision. The Gospel is powerful; God's power not man's.

The Bible in Nigeria Bible language will soon be produced. Nigeria means that we have our own language. In Nigeria we have more than 520 languages. Nigeria has 1.8 million people, and the world has 70 million. The number of deaf people in Nigeria is 2%=1.4 million. 98% =68.6 million do not know Jesus. Only 5% =90,000 know Jesus! 7 deaf persons die daily in Africa only, that's what research tells us.

At the same time we realized wonderful living and genuine fellowship in and around the work. I wish you all could experience it as it was so elevating and inspiring.

I personally would like to thank you for your support for the trip to Ibadan. It is with much gratitude that I submit this report to LMF who granted the funding to attend the three programs. My gratitude also goes to Mama Lilly and others who generously gave their time and money to make this program so successful. May God continue to bless you all.

With lots of love,  
Ruth Ulea



# ELDA CONFERENCE PICTURES FROM LAS VEGAS



*Dorothy Sparks and Pr. Beth Lockard presenting on their trip to Nigeria at the Conference.*



*Pastor Beth and Dorothy are all smiles in their African dresses.*



*ELDA members enjoying their time at the conference.  
From L to R: Mary Edwards, Donna King, Joanne Reilly and Craig King*



*ELDA Members taking their picture with "Flat Jesus"*

# ELDA THANKSGIVING APPEAL

The ELDA Thanksgiving Appeal

By Linda Fairbanks

Being thankful is not just for the Thanksgiving holiday. “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good and His love endures forever.” Psalm 136:1

It is time once more for the Thanksgiving Appeal. It is a time also to “Give Thanks” to the good Lord for everything that we have received this year. Some of us have been to the ELDA Conference in Las Vegas this past summer. We give thanks for a successful conference in which we learned so much. We are thankful for the ASL and voice interpreters who made the meetings go well. Here is a list of what your gifts to the Thanksgiving Appeal helps with.

Donations in any dollar amount helps the ELDA Board manage its expenses and helps with their conference trips. In the past, we got money from the ELCA headquarters but we cannot rely on those funds coming from ELCA. The HOPE Fund and the Zechariah Fund helps those who want to go into Deaf Ministry or go on mission trips and the two funds are fed by the Thanksgiving Appeal.

The ELDA Mission trip to Nigeria was a success and now ELDA has formed a new partnership with LCCN –Deaf Church. This partnership is important because our donations will go directly towards the Deaf Church and School in Nigeria. Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf in Montego Bay is another informal mission that ELDA supports. Won't you or your church help us in our Thanksgiving Appeal? Please send a check made out to ELDA to our Treasurer. The ELDA Board thanks you very much for your generous donation.

Send a check to ELDA for the dollar amount of your choice to:

Jeff Panek, ELDA Treasurer 625 S. Mary Drive, Tea, South Dakota 57064

## WELCOME TO AMERICA



The Wasilowski Family From L to R: Sonny, Maggie, Lariba, RJ and Lisa.

A homemade sign welcoming Lariba the USA!

Lariba from the country of Ghana! She is the host granddaughter of Linda Fairbanks.

Linda's son and his family are hosting Lariba for the 2018-2019 school year. She will attend classes at the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf and is signed up to play sports at MSAD.

This is the Wasilowski's 4th time to host deaf students from other countries. They had hosted Jane from Malaysia, Kate from Australia and Jay-R from the Philippines.



to



# St. Matthew's Lutheran Church + ELCA

11031 Camarillo Street  
North Hollywood, California 91602

818.762.2909

[StMatthewsNoHo@gmail.com](mailto:StMatthewsNoHo@gmail.com)

[www.StMatthewsNoHo.org](http://www.StMatthewsNoHo.org)

September 25, 2018

## St. Matthew's Deaf Minister Job Description (Oct. 2018)

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, a progressive Christian community in North Hollywood, CA, is now looking for a new part-time Deaf minister to minister with and lead the Deaf community we call Sharing Hands that was founded at St. Matthew's more than 20 years ago. Duties include leading worship, pastoral care and outreach with the Deaf. The Deaf minister works in collaboration with and under the oversight of the hearing Pastor of St. Matthew's to create one vibrant, Gospel-filled religious community for the Deaf and hearing.

**Worship:** The main feature of our Deaf Ministry is All-ASL worship. It is a "safe space" for the Deaf to fully immerse in the spirituality of the Gospel, to fully celebrate the Eucharist, using the common language of American Sign Language. It is an interactive service where the congregants are welcome to "interrupt" the service for clarification or comments. The Deaf minister leads the service, prepares the readings and discussion, and serves as presider, making a point of inviting everyone to participate. This service normally occurs on every second, fourth and fifth Sunday of the month. On the other Sundays, we join with the hearing congregation, assisting together in worship that is ASL interpreted. During the Lenten season, Sharing Hands traditionally does things "outside of the box" to deepen our sense of spirituality (i.e. fields trips to different Deaf churches, visits to a monastery, visits to other religious sites like Hindu or Buddhist temples).

**Pastoral Care:** The Deaf minister provides pastoral care with Deaf participants as needed, arranges and presides at baptisms, weddings, and funerals. The Deaf minister also organizes Deaf gatherings, Bible studies and other opportunities to benefit the spiritual development of the Deaf persons.

**Outreach:** The Deaf minister reaches out in creative and meaningful ways to Deaf persons in the community with the intent of building up the Deaf ministry at St. Matthew's. The Deaf minister builds and maintains relationships with Deaf organizations in the Los Angeles area as well as with the national Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association.

**Qualifications:** Candidates for the position of Deaf minister should be fluent in ASL with preference given to persons who identify Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Candidates should have experience participating in and showing leadership in Deaf ministry in a Christian congregation. Candidates with demonstrated training or experience in counseling or peer support preferred. Strong communication and pastoral gifts required.

**Compensation:** The Deaf minister is a part-time position of approximately 8-10 hours per week. The salary is up to \$500/month for 12 months. We offer 3 weeks vacation, but no other benefits.

**Applications:** To apply for the position of Deaf minister, please e-mail a cover letter, resume and name and contact information of three references to Pr. Stephanie Jaeger, [stmatthewsnohopastor@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewsnohopastor@gmail.com) by October 21<sup>st</sup>. Select applicants will be invited for interviews and to assist with a Sharing Hands gathering or Bible study. Start Date: By November 25.

Rev. Stephanie Jaeger, PhD, Pastor

*St. Matthew's Lutheran Church celebrates God's grace through Christ, embraces diversity, and empowers people to discover and develop their spiritual gifts to serve as agents of healing and change.*

# WORD OF LIFE DEAF LANCASTER, PA

WOLD was deeply honored to receive ELDA's "City on a Hill" award. Council members are planning how to use this award in positive ways to promote WOLD's work and ministry locally, and to bring wider recognition of ELDA's work to WOLD's own mission partners.

In the summer, WOLD changed its Sunday worship time to 10:00 a.m., and decided to keep Sunday worship at this time always. WOLD Sunday worship is now at 10:00.

After Labor Day, WOLD will start a new Bible Study entitled: "Bible Stories to Know." The goal of the study is to help members become more familiar with the "important" stories of the Bible and to know why they are important.

"Bible Stories to Know" will look at stories relating to Creation, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, the Exodus, Moses, the giving of the Law, and many other topics from the Old Testament. After reviewing the important stories of the Old Testament, the important stories of the New Testament will be reviewed — Jesus' story (in sequence) and the significant events and teachings in the early Church. The "Deaf Bible" translation will be used, and when possible, ASL videos from Deaf Missions will be shown.

WOLD's popular "Sunday School" adult forum will resume again after Labor Day. Each week, we watch different v-logs made by Deaf people on the themes of religion, God, faith, and the Bible. The discussion after watching the v-logs is always interesting and enjoyable.



# CONGRATS

Pastor Beth and Bill Lockard announce the marriage of their second son, Aaron, to Danielle Volpe on Saturday, June 30 at The Barn at Stoneybrooke in Atglen, PA. Pr. Beth did the wedding outside in 98 degrees with cows watching the show! The guests were glad to go inside the air-conditioned barn to cool off at the reception. Aaron is a high school social studies/history teacher and Danielle is a registered dietitian working at a hospital. They live in West Chester, PA.



Mark and Angela Koterwski announced the marriage of their daughter, Kayla to Zach Tate on August 11, 2018. That was also the mother of the bride, Angela Koterwski's birthday so Happy Birthday to her as well. Congrats to all.



## ELDA Online

Remember our website is [www.ELDADeaf.org](http://www.ELDADeaf.org)  
our facebook page is:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ELDADeaf/>

## NEWS

Please help our newsletter! Send me your pictures and stories about your ministry. We'd love to put it in our next newsletter.

### September, December, March and June

This is your newsletter; we want to know what topics and articles that you want to see in the newsletters. If there is a person, a church or something of interest that you want us to spotlight on, let us know! Feel free to send your feedback to Linda Fairbanks, [lindafairbanks22@gmail.com](mailto:lindafairbanks22@gmail.com) Thanks!